



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
2181 Rayburn House Office Building ■ (202) 225-4527

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

March 20, 2001

Committee Will Introduce *No Child Left Behind* On Thursday

The House Education & the Workforce Committee will introduce the President's *No Child Left Behind* education reform bill on Thursday, March 22. The bill, to be introduced as H.R. 1, will closely track the president's key priorities of flexibility, accountability, and choice to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers.

States have become the laboratories of education innovation. H.R. 1 gives them the freedom and flexibility they need to implement education reforms that have proven successful in enhancing student achievement. It also establishes a rigorous accountability system, including asking states to design and implement annual math and reading tests for students in grades three through eight.

Other highlights of the President's plan include the Reading First initiative aimed at ensuring that every U.S. student can read by the third grade, as well as other programs to improve teacher quality, enhance math and science education, make schools safer, and enhance education technology programs.

The president's message is clear: We must encourage states and school districts to implement innovative solutions to educate our children, but we must also hold them accountable for improving student achievement.

Message of the Day

***No Child Left Behind* gives students a chance, parents a choice, and schools a charge to be the best in the world.**

- *H.R. 1 gives states and local school districts flexibility in how they spend federal dollars but holds them strictly accountable for increasing student achievement.*
- *There must be an escape hatch for students trapped in failing schools.*
- *Empowering parents to remove their children from poor schools can compel failing schools to improve and help to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- Since 1990, Congress has spent more than \$80 billion on the Title I program, but achievement scores remain generally stagnant.
- Just 13 percent of fourth grade low-income students scored at a "proficient" level on the 1998 National Assessment of Educational Progress reading test.
- Low-income students lag behind their counterparts by an average of 20 percentile points on national assessment tests.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We need to set clear goals for performance and help our schools get the job done. The alternative is to continue to rob millions of poor and disadvantaged young Americans of their futures by failing to provide them an effective education." Secretary of Education Rod Paige, March 7, 2001, testimony before the House Education & the Workforce Committee